

# STANFORD LAW SCHOOL:



## CROWN AND GOWN

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## **Introduction: A Layered Approach**

To fully understand the character of a university, one must explore the school in the context of its greater environment. It is useful to know how the campus and its functions interact with the outside community; a relationship often termed “town and gown.” Often, though, the university campus is a city in and of itself, and each of its member schools can be conceived as another campus within that greater academic city. At Stanford University, the Crown Quadrangle site of the School of Law, shares such a relationship with the campus as a whole. But what is the nature of this interaction between Crown and gown? While this question can certainly be taken on in a variety of ways, it is of particular interest to first examine the structural needs and resulting physical form of Stanford Law School (SLS), and from there, move on to analyze how that design determines the place of the School in the University.

## **I: An Abbreviated History**

In 1893, Stanford Law School originated as the Department of Law, an undergraduate program originally housed in a few bedrooms in Encina Hall, but moved to the Inner Quad within the first few years.<sup>1</sup> Under the leadership of Professor Nathan Abbott, original head of the law program, the first quarter of the twentieth century included several important steps that led to the establishment of SLS as a full-fledged graduate school. First, in 1900, the Stanford law program became a charter member of the American Association of Law Schools (AALS), which was followed one year later by the conferral of

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<sup>1</sup> Kirkwood, Marion R. and William B. Owens. A Brief History Of The Stanford Law School. Stanford, CA: Stanford University, School of Law, 1961.

its first professional degree. In 1908, the designation of department was dropped, and the name “School of Law” adopted in its place. Finally, in 1916, the transition culminated as the University gave SLS’ chief executive the title of Dean.<sup>2</sup>

SLS remained in the Inner Quad until 1950, when it moved to the old Administration Building it had renovated at a cost of \$1 million. This location faced the Oval at the front of the Outer Quad, in what is currently buildings 160 and 170.<sup>3</sup>

## **II: The Needs Of A Modern Law School**

Stanford Law School quickly outgrew what proved to be temporary quarters in the Outer Quad. It was a building that, quite simply, was not designed to be a modern law school, and this inadequacy was apparent in several ways. In fact, the deficiencies of the space created a situation in which the physical form of the school inhibited it from achieving its potential as an institution.

To begin with, the school’s center of legal scholarship, its library, was not sufficient to meet either its needs or established industry standards. Shelf space was very limited, and by 1972, according to an informational brochure published by SLS, no room remained for new books or materials. With this constraint, the pamphlet explains, the library was unable to successfully maintain a comprehensive, up-to-date collection.<sup>4</sup> The Law Librarian, Myron Jacobstein, told *The Stanford Daily* that twenty-five percent of the collection was stored away inaccessibly and that certain books were left unpurchased because there was no place for

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<sup>2</sup> “Stanford Law School: History.” (Online) Available: <http://www.law.stanford.edu/about/history/>

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> “A Building For Stanford Law School.” Stanford, CA: Stanford University, School of Law, 1972(?).

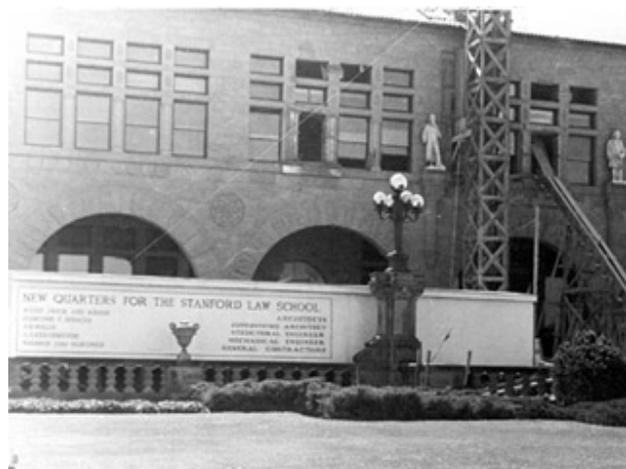
them in the library. Although SLS was the sixth-ranked law school in the country, its library was only ranked sixteenth.<sup>5</sup>

The shortcomings were not only a matter of prestige; they were a matter of regulation, as the Association of American Law Schools, the very organization of which SLS is a charter member, mandated that its members provide sufficient library facilities. In addition to providing a library suitable for faculty research, SLS was and is required to “meet the research needs of its students, satisfy the demands of its curricular offerings, particularly in those respects in which student research is expected, and allow for the training of its students in the use of various research methodologies.”<sup>6</sup> Aside from constraints on space for books, the law library was inadequate as a student facility, as its seating capacity only accommodated a quarter of the student population. This, too, was substandard according to the American Law Library Association, which required that a member school’s library have seating for 65 percent of its students.<sup>7</sup>

Lack of classroom space was also problematic in the Outer Quad location, as over

*Outer Quad Location, Under Construction ca. 1950. Currently Bldgs. 160-170.*

*Image :Stanford Archives*



<sup>5</sup> McCarthy, Patrick. “Law School To Open On Schedule For Full Operation This Summer.” The Stanford Daily. 13 March 1975. Vol. 167, No. 25. pp. 11, 20.

<sup>6</sup> “Bylaws of the Association of American Law Schools, Inc.” (Online) Available: <http://www.aals.org/bylaws.html>

<sup>7</sup> McCarthy. pp 11, 20.

100 classes had to meet in only six classrooms. This constraint forced the Law School to borrow an extra room while it was not otherwise occupied, use the moot court room as a classroom, and hold classes early in the morning, during lunch hours, and well into the evening.<sup>8</sup> Jack Friedenthal, an SLS professor at the time, summed up the problem well. In his words, “if there are not enough classrooms, scheduling becomes so intense that you cannot take advantage of all opportunities to enhance education.”<sup>9</sup> Beyond the issue of limited space, because they were adapted from non-law use, or, in the case of the moot court room, not designed for teaching at all, the classrooms were not well suited to the Socratic pedagogical style used at SLS and most other American law schools. Finally, the classrooms were not equipped with modern audiovisual technology, which was also a violation of the AALS bylaws.<sup>10</sup>

The shortcomings of the library and the classrooms certainly must have affected the faculty as well, impacting their endeavors as scholars in the former case, and teachers in the latter. Yet the lack of space in the Outer Quad limited the faculty in another important way because it forced them into small and sometimes shared offices. These offices were often not easily accessible to students, nor were they large enough for much student-faculty interaction within the room. A further problem was the absence of an easy access pattern between the faculty offices and the library. Despite these measures and inconveniences, overall faculty office space was nonetheless full by 1972. However, at the time the faculty was not large enough and needed to be expanded<sup>11</sup>; an impossibility in the Outer Quad, where space couldn’t be re-allocated because no other part of SLS had expendable square

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid. p. 11.

<sup>9</sup> Lence, Rob. “Law School’s New Building Helps Image.” *The Stanford Daily*. 5 November 1975. Vol. 168, No. 28. pp. 1, 6.

<sup>10</sup> Bylaws of the Association of American Law Schools, Inc.”

<sup>11</sup> “A Building For Stanford Law School” (Brochure). p.1.

footage, and probably without exception would have liked more space for itself if were it available.

Among the SLS institutions lacking satisfactory facilities were the various student organizations. Instead of the offices they needed, these groups, which included the Stanford Law Review and the Legal Aid Society, were “assigned to small cubicles in the basement.”<sup>12</sup> Moreover, there was a shortage of meeting places for these organizations and for other informal student meetings.

### **III: A Building For Stanford Law School**

Stanford Law School needed a new facility; a facility, which, according to then Stanford President Richard Lyman would “provide a first-class law school with buildings that match the extraordinary quality of its faculty and students.”<sup>13</sup> In accomplishing this objective, for the first time in its history, SLS would have the advantage of custom-building a space appropriate to fit its needs. Such design freedom would allow SLS to do more than just meet current requisites; it would allow for luxury, afford excess capacity and “provide sufficient flexibility to accommodate future developments in educational programs.”<sup>14</sup> To make sure that it took advantage of such a unique opportunity, SLS engaged in careful planning.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Ibid. p. 1.

<sup>13</sup> Swope.

<sup>14</sup> “A Building For Stanford Law School.”(Brochure)

<sup>15</sup> “Crown Quadrangle.” Stanford Lawyer. (Insert). Fall 1975. Vol. 10, No.2.

In 1965, SLS contracted the San Francisco office of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill (SOM) to develop the design of the new Law School.<sup>16</sup> The first phase of their planning process was programming, in which the architects consulted alumni who were either members of the Law School Board of Visitors or who had been appointed to the federal or state judiciary. SOM/San Francisco also interviewed deans of law schools around the country.<sup>17</sup> Most importantly, the SOM programming team met extensively with current law students and faculty. Throughout the course of the program phase, the architects attempted to determine “the nature and philosophy of the School,” as well as “the special requirements of the students and faculty.”<sup>18</sup> Their findings led them to some important conclusions that would inform their design for the Law School.

Perhaps most crucially, SOM learned that law students tend to spend their full day at the law school and require a variety of services and spaces centralized on site.<sup>19</sup> Among these needs are facilities for dining and food service, spaces for social interaction, room for storage, and comfortable seating and desk areas for class work and study. More holistically, the long hours an average student spent at the school created a demand for a design that would foster a sense of community.

Clearly, SLS required more spacious academic facilities, but programming also uncovered other needs that its new building design should address. First, planners found that classrooms should be scaled and designed in such a way to encourage the most extensive student-faculty interaction.<sup>20</sup> They also discovered that faculty offices must meet three main needs: (a) privacy for study; (b) easy access to the library; and (c) openness to students when

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<sup>16</sup> Joncas, Richard, David J. Neuman and Paul V. Turner. The Campus Guide: Stanford University. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999. p.113.

<sup>17</sup> “A Building For Stanford Law School.”(Brochure)

<sup>18</sup> “Crown Quadrangle.”

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Stanford Law School Board of Visitors. Annual Report. 1967-68.

necessary. Finally, in addition to providing the necessary shelf space and reading rooms, the program team found that the law library must be user friendly, affording “easy access to the large number of volumes used by law students and faculty members”<sup>21</sup> But programming, however informative it may have been, was only one part of the larger planning process.

#### **IV: An Ideal Home**

Richard P. Dober, writing not long before Stanford Law School began to plan its new facility, advises potential campus planners that “[d]esign as an activity of planning is the second step of two interrelated and overlapping events, first programming and then design.”<sup>22</sup> Once the program is laid out, its physical embodiment, or design, must be created. To be sure, the overlap and interrelatedness, as Dober terms it, make the timing of the two events only semi-linear, but the point remains, though, that design arises out of program, and that, in essence, the amalgamation of programming and designing *is* planning.<sup>23</sup>

Such a planning effort by Stanford Law School in partnership with SOM/San Francisco resulted in Crown Quadrangle, the home of SLS since 1975. Crown Quadrangle’s design addressed the problems with the Outer Quad location and incorporated the needs uncovered by the architects’ programming work; In short, it was ideally suited to the needs of SLS.

Crown Quadrangle consists of four buildings and two prominent outdoor spaces.<sup>24</sup> Two of the buildings are three stories in above ground elevation, and they are connected by

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<sup>21</sup> “Crown Quadrangle.”

<sup>22</sup> Dober, Richard P. Campus Planning. New York: Reinhold Publishing Corporation, 1963. P.54, Emphasis original.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid. p.54. Emphasis added.

<sup>24</sup> Floor Plans are included as Appendix A.

a narrow two-story (again, above ground) structure, which is oriented perpendicularly and set near the middle of its larger neighbors, creating somewhat of an “H” shape. This part of Crown Quadrangle also has a basement level, through which one can also walk between the three buildings. In the northern opening of the “H”, facing Meyer Library, the layout of these three structures results in a large, open courtyard. The final building, a single-story auditorium is sited at the southern end of the complex, but it is placed far enough south to create another courtyard, this time enclosed, between the auditorium and the south side of the “H”. Overall, the complex is 221,161 square feet, roughly three times the amount of space SLS had in the Outer Quad. In principle, its design provides “four buildings carefully integrated with each other to provide a system of separated but coordinated student and faculty activities.”<sup>25</sup>

#### *Robert Crown Law Library*

The largest of the four buildings is Robert Crown Law Library, which sits at the east of the complex. Although the library itself takes up most of the structure on each of its four levels, faculty offices, the Dean’s office, and various administrative offices are also within its walls. Crown Library has seating for 100 percent of the student body, a population that has held steady at around 550 members since before SLS left the Outer Quad. Many individual study carrels, which can be reserved by law students, were also installed among the shelves.<sup>26</sup> The new library facility also has the space for up to 500,000 volumes, a number well in excess of the 225,00 the school owned when Crown Quadrangle opened in 1975.<sup>27</sup> Although the expansion of shelf capacity seems large, it is curious in light of Dober’s

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<sup>25</sup> “Crown Quadrangle.”

<sup>26</sup> “A Building For Stanford Law School.” (Brochure)

<sup>27</sup> McCarthy. pp. 11, 20.

modular planning guidelines,<sup>28</sup> which advise that, as a general rule, a library's collection increases in size by a factor of 1.5 every ten years. Dober does not specify any difference in the collection growth rate between general libraries and law libraries, but therein lies a possible explanation for the somewhat limited space increase.<sup>29</sup>

In other ways, though, Crown Library follows the planning model of the time. Regarding libraries, Dober argues that “[t]he ideal situation is to site the facility so that readers enter the second level directly into the cataloging, processing and reference rooms; and simply have to go up one level or down one level....”<sup>30</sup> Crown Library's main entrance is on the second floor, as are the rooms to which Dober refers. Although, because Crown has four levels, one must sometimes go down more than one level to access the basement, that level contains mostly compact shelving and none of the most frequently used library services. It is no surprise that SOM set up the library in this way, as Dober uses another SOM project, Burling Library at Grinnell College in Iowa (1961), as a model to demonstrate both the second level entrance style and the modular system as applied to libraries.<sup>31</sup>

New social and technological developments also influenced the library design. First of all, except for some special collections and archival material, the collection is shelved in open stacks. This represents a contemporary acceptance of a new philosophy that did away with a system where library users would fill out call slips and a librarian would retrieve the volume for them. The open stack system, it was found, was more efficient and did more to encourage full library use, but without the careful organization and space-maximizing layout provided by modular design, open stacks would have been much more difficult to offer.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> For a definition of Modular Planning, see: Dober, pp. 57-63.

<sup>29</sup> Dober, p. 91.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid. p. 92.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid. p. 90.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid. pp 86-87.

Ample and comfortable reading space in the library seems to be one way that the architects addressed the need to provide facilities for students who spend a full day at the Law School. Space optimization techniques also freed up room for these large, open reading areas, a feature which SOM had recently begun to use in school libraries, including that of the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, completed in 1956.<sup>33</sup>

QuickTime™ and a  
TIFF (LZW) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

*Crown Library, Main  
Reading Room. 1<sup>st</sup> Floor.*

*[http://www.millerkelley.com/sls\\_library\\_slideshow.htm](http://www.millerkelley.com/sls_library_slideshow.htm)*

Although modern planning technology helped improve the design of Crown Library, modern research technology presented additional planning challenges. New technology was appearing in contemporary libraries; technology requiring its own spaces in addition to those set aside for shelves and readers. As Dober explains,

...no system is yet in sight which would significantly alter the present pattern of reader and book.... Probably any mechanical system will be ancillary to, not a replacement of, present library facilities.<sup>34</sup>

Additional space, thus, had to be added to incorporate soundproof group study rooms, microtext equipment, typewriters, and duplication services, as well as potential future

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<sup>33</sup> Danz, Ernst. Architecture of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, 1950-1962. New York: Frederick A. Praeger, 1963.

<sup>34</sup> Dober.. p 86.

technologies.<sup>35</sup> The present space devoted to computers and other technologies in Crown Library suggests prudent foresight in this respect on the part of SOM's designers, which may be partially a result of the fact that SOM/San Francisco began using computers in its own office in 1963, and continually increased its reliance on technology from that point forward.<sup>36</sup>

Most of the faculty offices are located on the third floor of the Crown Library building, arranged along a corridor circling the library itself.<sup>37</sup> The design of the individual offices, and the office corridor as a whole, fully address SLS' program needs, allowing the faculty to fulfill their dual role as teachers and scholars. Each room is large enough for students to visit their professors for office consultation<sup>38</sup>, yet because they are located in a remote part of the building, there is probably less traffic, which allows quiet space for scholarly work. The placement of the offices on the same corridor also has the potential to serve a dual purpose because it allows students to easily visit multiple faculty members in succession, while, at the same time, grouping the faculty together in somewhat of a scholarly community. Close access to Crown Library and the adjacent faculty reading room, also on the third floor,<sup>39</sup> are design features that potentially further this sense of academic fellowship among faculty, or at the very least, facilitate professors' academic endeavors.

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<sup>35</sup> A Building For Stanford Law School." (Brochure). p.4.

<sup>36</sup> Bush-Brown, Albert. Skidmore, Owings & Merrill: Architecture and Urbanism, 1973-1983. New York, Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1984. p.19.

<sup>37</sup> "Crown Quadrangle."

<sup>38</sup> Ibid.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid.

*Tiered, Horseshoe-Shaped  
Classroom in F.I.R. Hall*

<http://www.law.stanford.edu/about/slideshow>



*F.I.R. Hall*

Second in size among the Crown Quadrangle buildings, Frederick I. Richman (F.I.R.) Hall sits opposite Crown Library to the west, and houses the school's six classrooms, seven seminar rooms, and moot court room. F.I.R. Hall is of an equal height to Crown Library, which serves to give the complex some degree of symmetry. Interestingly, though, including the basement, F.I.R. has only three levels, which is one less than its counterpart across the quadrangle. The difference is not arbitrary by any means, as it addresses an important functional requirement of the building, specifically, that higher ceilings were needed to create classrooms befitting the desired program. In particular, the designers found that maximum interaction between students and professor was best achieved in tiered horseshoe-style classrooms, with swiveling chairs to “enable students to see and hear each other clearly.”<sup>40</sup> Large, continuous tabletops surround the room on each tier of the horseshoe, which allows for increased lecture involvement by providing ample space for textbook use and note-

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<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

taking—and now laptop computer use—to occur concurrently.<sup>41</sup> Not far from Crown Quadrangle, the classrooms in the Stanford Graduate School of Business (completed in 1966) were of the same type.<sup>42</sup> SOM, too, had previously used a horseshoe arrangement in its design for the Air Force Academy.<sup>43</sup>

The arrangement of the rooms within F.I.R. Hall is perhaps as important as the design inside the individual rooms. On each floor, the classrooms and seminar rooms are arranged around a high-capacity central staircase, designed “to minimize traffic congestion and enable students to move quickly from class to class.”<sup>44</sup> A skylight illuminates the staircase.<sup>45</sup> SOM also designed F.I.R. Hall with other features to enhance its flexibility of use. To this end, the two largest classrooms were equipped with moveable partitions to allow smaller class sizes and more classes to meet at the same time, if necessary.<sup>46</sup> Installing such dividers falls in line with one of Dober’s explicit recommendation for modular classroom design.<sup>47</sup> To provide maximum scheduling freedom without sacrificing interactivity, the design endowed each room with the newest technology and added small rooms just outside each of the classrooms where class discussions between students and faculty could continue after class without impeding the beginning of the following class.<sup>48</sup> As a result of these innovations, Crown Quadrangle not only gave SLS more classroom space than the Outer Quad, it gave the school the ability to use that space more efficiently and more flexibly.

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<sup>41</sup> Ibid.

<sup>42</sup> “Law Construction Begins.” The Stanford Daily. 26 September 1972. Vol. 162, No. 2. p. 4.

<sup>43</sup> Danz.

<sup>44</sup> “Crown Quadrangle.”

<sup>45</sup> Joncas, et al. p.113.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> Dober. p.67.

<sup>48</sup> “Crown Quadrangle.”

### *Irvine Gallery*

A narrow, two-story strip of a building, the James Irvine Gallery connects Crown Library with F.I.R. Hall. Stanford Law School's "main street"<sup>49</sup> is very similar in design to a building connecting two parts of the US Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, a project of SOM/San Francisco completed in 1952.<sup>50</sup> At Stanford, in addition to its role as an indoor traffic conduit, Irvine Gallery supplies SLS with some facilities identified as important during the programming process, most notably in the area of full-day student infrastructure.

The first floor of the building is home to the Law School Café and Lounge, which provides food service Monday through Friday between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, and a large dining and general-purpose seating area. Irvine Gallery's basement is equipped with several vending machines to provide service during off hours.<sup>51</sup> The design of the first floor eating area is similar to at least one previous SOM work, as it bears a significant resemblance to the cafeteria at the Wells Fargo corporate offices in Southern California, built in the 1960s.<sup>52</sup> Both are long, narrow rooms lined with large windows on one side, which serve to infuse the space with light. Perhaps not coincidentally, Dober, leaning heavily on a work that addresses dining facilities for institutions in general (not just universities)<sup>53</sup> prescribes university dining rooms that are light and airy, shielded from outside activity as much as possible, and sited to provide diners with nice exterior views.<sup>54</sup> The arrangement of the Law School Café makes sense in light of these guidelines, as the windows on the south side provide the sense of

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<sup>49</sup> "A Building For Stanford Law School." (Brochure). p.4.

<sup>50</sup> Danz pp. 48-49

<sup>51</sup> Based on Personal Visit of 18 May 2005.

<sup>52</sup> Bush-Brown. p. 76.

<sup>53</sup> Dober's footnote, p. 145, nos. 15-17. Stokes, John W. Food Services in Industry and Institutions. Dubuque, Iowa; William C. Brown Company, 1960. Dober calls this "The best single source on the subject."

<sup>54</sup> Dober. p. 144.

openness and a pleasant view of the interior courtyard, but the absence of windows on the north side blocks views of bustling action in front of the school. Shielding from the disturbance of commotion is also a possible explanation as to why there is a large partition separating the dining room from the food distribution and cash register area of the café.

On the second floor of Irvine Gallery, the designers installed a faculty lounge and faculty kitchenette,<sup>55</sup> which seems to be a way to provide faculty who spend long hours at Crown Quadrangle with comforts analogous to those created for students with the same need. In addition to the convenience they provide, these common spaces serve to further the sense of a scholarly community among the SLS faculty.

SOM also added meeting rooms on the same floor as these faculty areas,<sup>56</sup> and in doing so created spaces for faculty, staff, and administration meetings that had been lacking in the previous location. The same rooms were also of use to student groups requiring meeting space in addition to the office space they were given in the basement of either Irvine Gallery or Crown Library. Locating these offices in the basement is important in relation to the placement of other facilities on the same level, specifically student mailboxes and lockers, partitioned telephone stations, and a photocopy room made available for student organization use.<sup>57</sup> The fact that these facilities exist at all is to the benefit of students who spend a full day at SLS, as it provides for their storage, paperwork and communication needs within the complex.

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<sup>55</sup> “Crown Quadrangle”

<sup>56</sup> Ibid.

<sup>57</sup> Ibid.

### *Kresge Auditorium*

The southernmost building in Crown Quadrangle is Kresge Auditorium, a one-story building without a basement. A seating capacity of 580 provides enough space for the entire Law School population, making it the ideal place for special events.<sup>58</sup> In addition to its full audiovisual technological complement, the large room is carpeted and paneled with oak, probably for acoustic reasons, which is a technique SOM employed to that end in its 450-seat auditorium at the Air Force Academy.<sup>59</sup> Just as it has an Irvine Gallery analog, SOM's Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey has a one-story lecture hall building which is very similar to Kresge. The major difference between the two is the presence of a basement in the Monterey version, which houses the school's cafeteria.<sup>60</sup>

### *Cooley Courtyard and Crocker Garden*

Crown Quadrangle features two different courtyards: Cooley Courtyard, an open space on the north side of Irvine Gallery facing Meyer Library, and Crocker Garden, an enclosed courtyard to the Gallery's south bounded by all four of the buildings in the complex. Cooley, although open, is set back from the major thoroughfare, and its bench seating areas are largely shielded from outside interference by carefully placed cement planter boxes containing modest trees and shrubs.

By virtue of its enclosed setting, Crocker already projects an atmosphere of seclusion. The space is filled with tables and chairs, which provide a place for informal meeting and give Law School Café patrons an outdoor dining option. Although Dober does not specifically address outdoor dining areas, he suggests that landscaping be used to help

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<sup>58</sup> Ibid.

<sup>59</sup> Danz. p.134.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid. p. 48-49.

shield indoor diners from viewing intense exterior activity.<sup>61</sup> Crocker Garden is heavily landscaped, with shrubbery on the ground complemented by vertical planting wrapped around the arcade on the south side of Irvine Gallery.

While the features of these courtyards are certainly interesting, it is perhaps more important to consider the decision to include courtyards in the design. A likely aim of the quadrangle plan was to develop the communal ideal of the SLS program in an attempt to make the experience of the full-day student more enjoyable. In his historical account of American campus planning, Paul V. Turner argues that to foster a “shared sense of social community” and “collegiate ideals,” the “appropriate architectural expression” is the quadrangle, especially those of the enclosed variety.<sup>62</sup> Although, no explicit evidence of this intent is found as it pertains to Crown Quadrangle’s planning, many aspects of the design support the argument. In addition to the extensive facilities and conveniences previously discussed, planners made purely aesthetic additions to the complex. Among other things, they left room for artwork to be hung, decorated the walls with graphic designs, avoided single-tone painting, and carpeted heavily, all with the intention of “deinstitutionalizing” the complex. The design also placed groups of furniture in open areas whenever possible and included a state-of-the-art climate control system to make Crown Quadrangle comfortable throughout the year.<sup>63</sup> Because it became clear during programming that students spend a great deal of time at the physical Law School, the overall design incorporated features that would create the equivalent of a living space, making that time as comfortable and as enjoyable as possible

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<sup>61</sup> Dober. p.144.

<sup>62</sup> Turner, Paul V. Campus: An American Planning Tradition. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1984. p. 215.

<sup>63</sup> “Crown Quadrangle”

## **V: Crown and Gown**

Without question, Crown Quadrangle has the capacity to serve its population in a variety of ways for extended periods of time, but its arrival did not sever Stanford Law School's interaction with the rest of Stanford University, on the contrary, it enhanced the relationship that could now be called Crown and Gown. Beginning with its planning, continuing during its construction and opening, and enduring throughout the 30 years it has been the home of SLS, Crown Quadrangle has impacted the activity of the University, and Stanford, in turn, has affected Crown Quadrangle and its populace.

### *Nathan Abbott's Neighbors*

Crown Quadrangle first made its impact on the University when it needed a place on campus. The proposed facility and its accompanying infrastructure had space requirements that necessitated the rearrangement of existing structures and roads. In its 1967-68 report, the Law School Board of Visitors identifies Crown's site as the former location of a fraternity house,<sup>64</sup> and it is likely that other houses were in the area as well. The records of Stanford's Vice Provost for Business Affairs also reveal that a careful process took place between September of 1969 and September of 1970 to manage vehicular traffic and construct a parking lot next to the future Crown Quadrangle. Correspondence between the planning office, the faculty and staff housing office, and residents of houses neighboring the site bears witness to the wide range of individuals and possible collateral effects that must be taken into consideration as part of the planning process.<sup>65</sup>

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<sup>64</sup> Stanford Law School Board of Visitors. Annual Report. 1967-68.

<sup>65</sup> Vice President for Business Affairs, Stanford University. Stanford University Archives. Box 73. Folder: "Law School Site."

On September 17, 1969, faculty and staff housing informed the planning office that, at least in the cases of three houses of interest, it was possible to terminate the leases of residents if their lots are required for purposes other than use as a residence site. Lease termination never appeared to come under further consideration, and the lessees of the three properties were very cooperative with the planning effort, so it is likely that this legal information would have been used only as a recourse against unaccommodating tenants. These houses, later documents revealed, belonged to Professor Sidney Drell (542 Alvarado), Professor Ronald Bracewell (634 Campus Drive), and Professor and Mrs. Harold Bacon (565 Lausen Street). Planning office and housing office staff members met with these residents to present them with the plan, advise them as to how it may affect their properties, and ask for any input on possible improvements.<sup>66</sup>

At the time, Campus Drive was located to the north of its current location (closer to Crown's site), and was intersected by two small roads, Lane A and Lane B, which would provide access to the new parking lot, then called Parking Lot J (now Nathan Abbott Parking Lot) and Nathan Abbott way, the street which would run to the south of the new law complex, between Salvatierra Way and Lausen Street. The common thread between the three affected residents was that their driveways or garages were accessed from either Lane A or Lane B, and they would thus be impacted by the increased traffic and, in the short run, the construction work. When planners visited the residents, they informed them that Lane A would be improved, but remain a two-way street, whereas Lane B would be made one-way. Professor Bacon repeatedly asked that Lane A be converted to a one-way for safety purposes, and his request was repeatedly denied. By the same token, although the elimination of one direction of traffic on Lane B would affect Professor Bracewell's ability to

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<sup>66</sup> Ibid.

enter and exit his garage, he agreed to the plan because of the safety benefits of limited access to Campus Drive. The planning office also agreed to preserve the shrubs along Professor Drell's property line, as well as Professor Bracewell's prized row of acacias.<sup>67</sup> Crown Quadrangle was not built in a vacuum or even on an isolated lot; it is clear from these records that, from the beginning, planning the complex required a great deal of attention to its surroundings on campus.

### *A Vacancy in the Outer Quad*

While the construction of Crown Quadrangle did require other Stanford entities to make concessions to Stanford Law School, in return, the opening of the new complex also gave two buildings in the Outer Quad back to the rest of the University. In June of 1972, when the Crown family's gift made it possible for construction to begin, Alan Grundmann of the Provost's office told the *Daily* that "the University has extensive plans for the use of the old law school building."<sup>68</sup> Its first use would be as temporary quarters for the History Department, allowing the history corner to be remodeled, which according to Grundmann would take place as soon as the Law School moved out. He also explained that the University library system was overcrowded, and because much of the law building (Building 160) was set up as a library already, it would likely be used as additional stacks once the history corner was finished. According to the account, the law annex, which presumably is Building 170, was likely slated for presidential staff offices.<sup>69</sup> These offices are currently housed in Building 170; a fitting successor to a law school that occupied the former administration building.

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<sup>67</sup> Ibid.

<sup>68</sup> Swope.

<sup>69</sup> Ibid.

*Crown as a Stanford Resource*

Although its design created a sense of privacy, no outer walls or gatekeeper excluded outsiders from Crown Quadrangle. In fact, some features of the new complex were quite attractive to the rest of the University population, which the planners had foreseen in some ways, but which policy had to regulate in others.

Because of its size, Kresge was not suitable for use as an everyday law classroom, and from its inception, it was intended for general Stanford purposes when not in use by SLS. In fact, the Law School's need for an auditorium to fit its entire population coincided with the University's need for "a fully equipped medium-sized auditorium."<sup>70</sup> Consequently, SOM designed a pedestrian flow system intended to separate law school traffic from general auditorium use traffic.<sup>71</sup> No source goes into detail on the specific arrangements made, but some of the observable features clearly serve this purpose. First of all, Kresge has only exterior entrances, and is not accessible from any of the other buildings in the complex, whereas the other three buildings are seamlessly connected through their basements. As a result, law students and faculty have no need to go outdoors to access their facilities and Kresge attendees have no need to go inside the other buildings of Crown Quadrangle. Furthermore, a short, black metal fence and complimentary landscaping prevent anyone walking south past Crocker Garden to access Kresge from wandering into the courtyard. For bicyclists, the careful placement of landscaping in Cooley Courtyard prevents speedy rides through the space, and the majority of bicycle parking space is located on the south side of Kresge, away from the complex.

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<sup>70</sup> "Crown Quadrangle."

<sup>71</sup> Ibid.

An interesting story is that of the Law School Café, which apparently became incredibly popular within the Stanford community; so popular, in fact, that the University became unhappy and convinced that its success was stealing business from other campus eateries, especially the TDS, Inc. establishments in Tresidder Memorial Union and Encina Hall.<sup>72</sup> Claiming that they were already running a deficit, Tresidder management complained to the University after a Law Café advertisement in the *Daily* publicized prices much lower than those offered by TDS. Because the Law Café, and other so-called satellite eateries, operated with some of their overhead costs subsidized by the University, whereas the TDS operation did not, Tresidder officials felt it was unfair for the satellites to advertise their lower prices, which would allow them to grow at the expense of the central TDS facilities. A Tresidder source quoted in the *Daily* acknowledged that ““there is great value in the lounges – camaraderie, convenience – but they ought not compete for non-professional school business.””<sup>73</sup> Stanford administration agreed, and banned the Law Café from advertising its operation.<sup>74</sup>

In contrast to the attractiveness of the café, which required University regulation, the popularity of Crown Library led to action by the Law School. The primary issue at hand, presumably, was undergraduates and other outside users crowding law students out of the limited reading space in the library. Presently, signs are posted clearly both inside and outside the library indicating that the main reading room is for law student use only.<sup>75</sup> Much like the Law Café, Crown Library was designed to fit the needs of SLS students, which seem to mirror the needs—or at least wants—of other students as well. The design of Crown

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<sup>72</sup> Leight, Warren. “Law Lounge to Stop Ads.” *The Stanford Daily*. 5 November 1975. Vol. 168, No. 28. p. 1.

<sup>73</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>74</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>75</sup> Personal Observations based on visit of 18 May 2005.

Library addresses these standards well enough to become overcrowded if left unregulated, requiring action on the part of SLS to preserve its program.

*Stanford as Crown's Infrastructure*

Despite any antagonism Stanford may have caused the Law School by way of the advertising ban or library rush, SLS benefits in terms of both planning and operation because it is couched in the larger University. Reading Dober's planning prescription<sup>76</sup>, one realizes the many facilities that SLS does not have because they simply do not need to duplicate existing parts of the University infrastructure.

As evidenced by the fact that the faculty and staff housing and planning offices handled the preparation for parking lot and road construction, SLS was not responsible for developing its own transportation infrastructure or employing a comprehensive support staff. Even prior to that time, Stanford funded the construction and improvement of a roadway system that made Crown Quadrangle's general area accessible by vehicle. As a further step, Stanford's public transportation system, the Marguerite shuttle, provides access to SLS for those without vehicles.<sup>77</sup> Much the same as the road system, a utility infrastructure already ran through the area because of the preexisting campus facilities, circumventing another possible set of costs,

While Crown Quadrangle served the physical needs of the Law School, Stanford already provided for the personal physical needs of law students. According to Dober, any campus needs a health service facility with "a suite of reception, examination, record-

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<sup>76</sup> Dober. Entirety of the work.

<sup>77</sup>"Marguerite Shuttle." Stanford Parking and Transportation Services. (Online) Available: <http://transportation.stanford.edu/marguerite/MargueriteShuttle.shtml#margueritefacts>

keeping, treatment and related rooms.”<sup>78</sup> Because of Stanford’s Student Health Centers, there was no need for SLS to plan for such facilities. For residential campuses, Dober further calls for extensive infirmary space, possibly including surgical rooms.<sup>79</sup> Stanford Hospital and Clinics, essentially a research arm of the University, serves that purpose for SLS. Dober also identifies a variety of athletic facilities as an important aspect of campus planning.<sup>80</sup> Again, because of Stanford’s fields, gymnasiums, pools, courts, and courses, SLS need not incorporate the construction of these spaces into its program.

### *Likeness and Prestige*

In addition to supplying Stanford Law School with practical physical support, the Stanford campus provided Crown Quadrangle with some of its exterior features, which attempt to “[draw] upon the rich architectural heritage of Stanford.”<sup>81</sup> As they do in the Richardsonian Romanesque<sup>82</sup> Main Quad and most other buildings on campus, red tiled roofs top the four structures of Crown Quadrangle. Although made of reinforced concrete, Crown Quadrangle’s outer walls imitate the sandstone of the Main Quad in their color.<sup>83</sup> Irvine Gallery pays further tribute to the Main Quad, adapting the famous arcade with a less ornate version of its own. Arcades also line the inward-facing sides of Crown Library and F.I.R. Hall, although, interestingly, they are oriented perpendicularly, so that one passes under a series of arches when using the walkway.<sup>84</sup> The combined effect has been said to

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<sup>78</sup> Dober. p. 115.

<sup>79</sup> Ibid. p. 115.

<sup>80</sup> Ibid. pp. 147-157.

<sup>81</sup> “A Building For Stanford Law School.” (Brochure)

<sup>82</sup> Turner, Paul V. et al. The Founders & the Architects: The Design of Stanford University. Stanford, CA: Department of Art, Stanford University, 1976. p. 45.

<sup>83</sup> Joncas, et al. p.113.

<sup>84</sup> Turner, Paul V. Lecture. “Art 255: The American Campus.” Stanford University, 24 May 2005.

“distantly interpret the Stanford vernacular.”<sup>85</sup> But, to a casual observer, the similarity is apparent, which is no surprise in light of SOM’s contemporary work in San Francisco, where, in designing new buildings, it exercised “great care for [the city’s] architectural heritage.”<sup>86</sup>

*Crown Quadrangle, as viewed from the North*

<http://www.law.stanford.edu/about/slideshow>



“Making new buildings relate to their important neighbors” was another SOM goal in its urban San Francisco projects.<sup>87</sup> Back on campus, the Center for Educational Research at Stanford (CERAS) neighbors Crown Quadrangle to the northeast. SOM also designed CERAS, construction of which wrapped up in 1972, three years prior to Crown’s completion.<sup>88</sup> CERAS’ reinforced concrete walls are finished with a technique called “fractured exposed concrete,” which creates a texture of evenly spaced, vertical ridges.<sup>89</sup> Although the appearance of Crown is quite a contrast to that of CERAS, When Crown Quadrangle was built, Carl Olson & Sons Construction Co. used the same hand texturing

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<sup>85</sup> Ibid. p.113.

<sup>86</sup> Bush-Brown. p. 31.

<sup>87</sup> Ibid. p. 31.

<sup>88</sup> Joncas, et al. pp.113-115.

<sup>89</sup> Ross, Suzie. “Hand-Chiseled Walls to Highlight New Law School.” The Stanford Daily. 14 February 1974. Vol. 166, No. 10. p. 3.

method, which involved a precise, labor-intensive procedure.<sup>90</sup> Aside from its difficulty, the process was very costly,<sup>91</sup> making it an exception among SOM designs of the time, where there was often little money available, none of which was usually spent on “modeled surfaces and deep reveals.”<sup>92</sup>

These expenditures on stylized architectural luxuries and efforts to reflect a greater Stanford style in Crown Quadrangle reveal efforts which could have been intended to increase the stature of Stanford Law School within the University. But, in addition, as many hoped it would, Crown Quadrangle’s founding probably also boosted SLS’s autonomous reputation and its prestige among law schools; successes which could only have reflected well upon the University. Literally from day one, Crown Quadrangle brought increased standing to Stanford, as President Gerald R. Ford attended and spoke at its September 21, 1975 opening celebration.<sup>93</sup>

The Crown and Gown relationship is mutually beneficial. Without Crown Quadrangle, Stanford would certainly be a functional, thriving University, but it would be shortchanging its law students and faculty, plus undergraduates and others who enjoy its luxuries; with Crown Quadrangle, Stanford has the benefit of the Law School’s added prestige and conveniences. Without Stanford, Crown Quadrangle would be a substandard facility; with Stanford, it is all-inclusive.

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<sup>90</sup> Ibid.

<sup>91</sup> Joncas, et al. p.113.

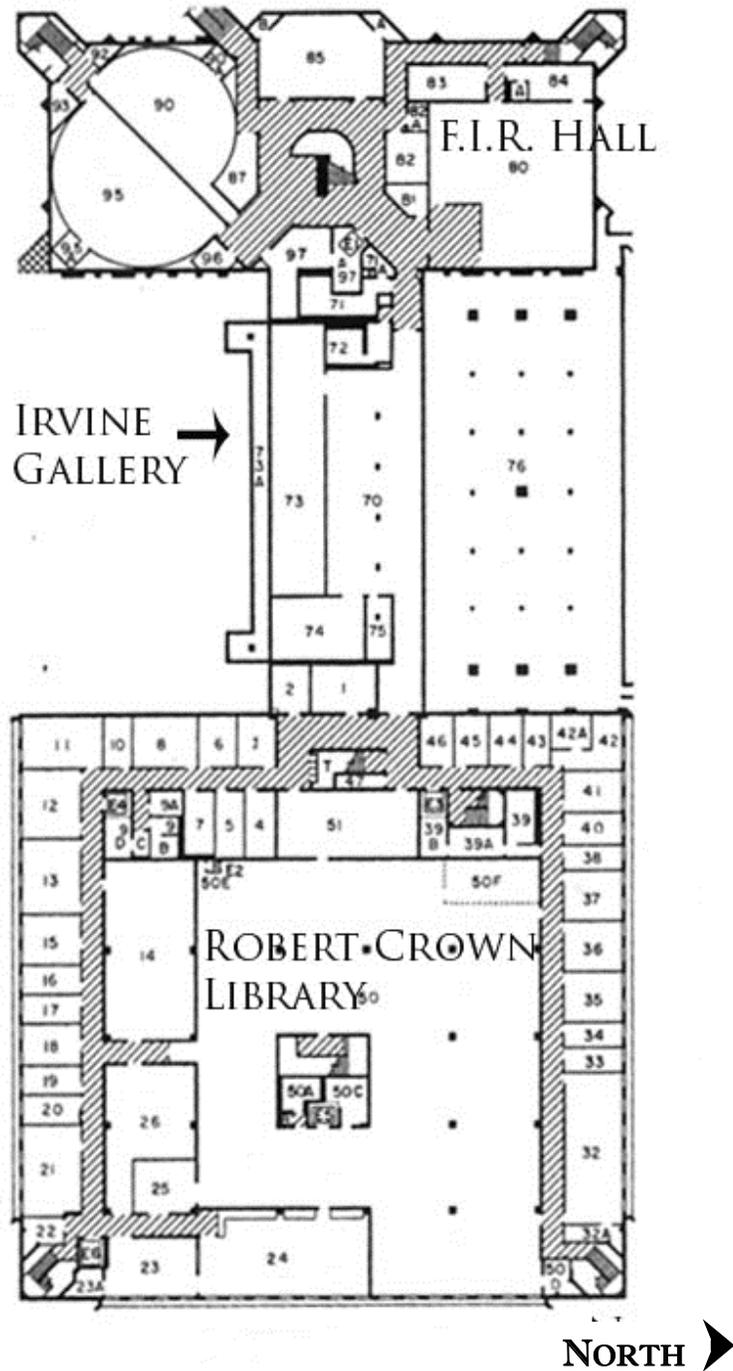
<sup>92</sup> Bush-Brown. p.19.

<sup>93</sup> “In Celebration Of Crown Quadrangle.”

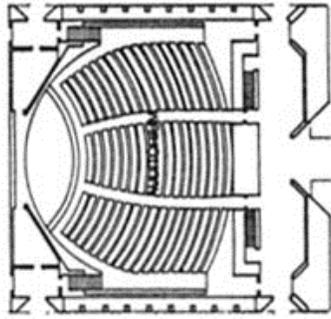
## Appendix A: Crown Quadrangle Floor Plan

Source (for all floors): "Crown Quadrangle." Stanford Lawyer. (Insert). Fall 1975. Vol. 10, No.2. Building Labels Added.

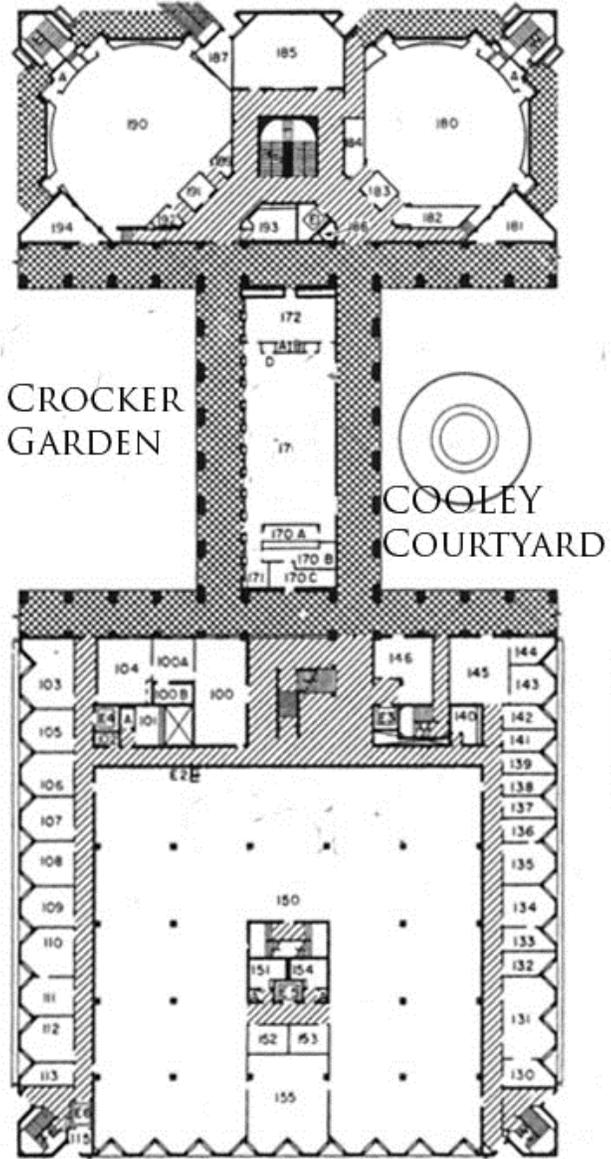
### Basement Level



First Floor

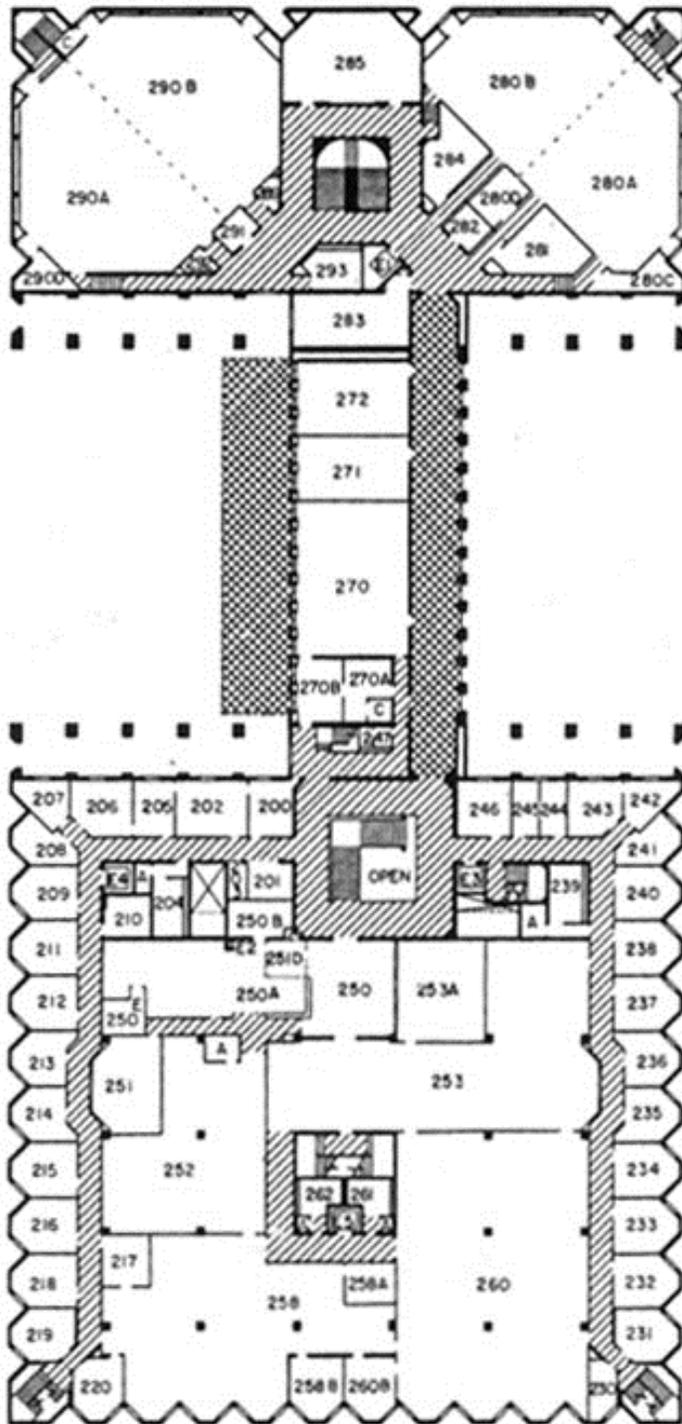


KRESGE AUDITORIUM



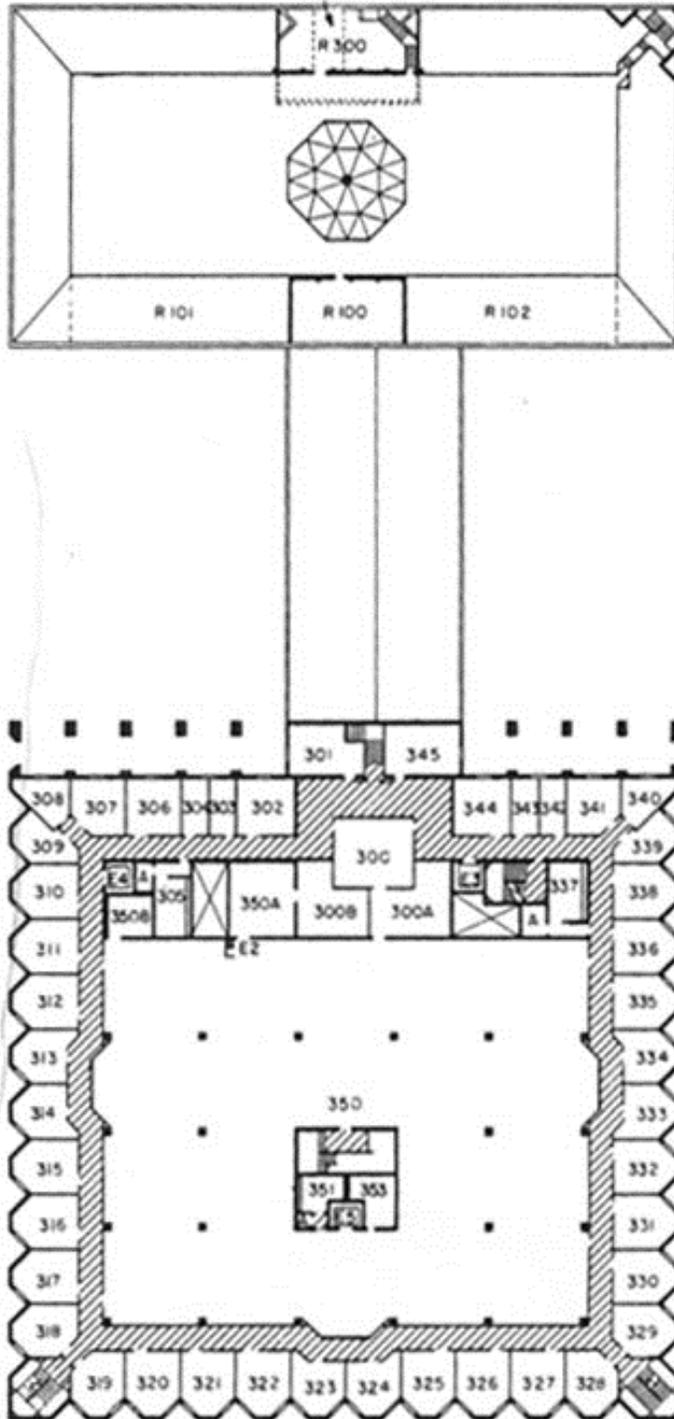
NORTH ►

Second Floor



NORTH ►

Third Floor



NORTH ►

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